

IMPROVED SET TOP BOX AND METHODS FOR USING THE SAMEABSTRACT

Devices, computer program products, and methods
5 are provided which extend the features of a set top box.
In a first aspect, a method is provided for employing a set
top box to notify at least one person of a television
event. In accordance with the method, a start time of a
television event is determined, and a set top box is
10 employed to notify at least one person via a telephone line
when a current time is within a predetermined time of the
start time. In a second aspect, a method is provided for
employing a set top box to record a telephone message. In
accordance with the method, a telephone message received
15 via a telephone line coupled to a set top box is recorded
by employing the set top box, and at least an indicator of
the recorded telephone message is displayed. In a third
aspect, a method is provided for controlling a set top box
via a telephone line coupled to the set top box. In
20 accordance with the method, a telephone call is received
from a calling party via a telephone line coupled to a set
top box, and the set top box is controlled via at least one
command transmitted by the calling party to the set top box
during the telephone call. In other aspects, devices and
25 computer program products are provided that can perform the
above described methods.